

Grade 6.3.3 Wilson Fluency
The Challenge

mid un po pa al kick
trip re dle load ta per
leys ing ping jec tion

middle unloading potato paper
alleys kicking tripping rejection

For three weeks Jose tried to get the attention of Estela,
the new girl at his middle school. She's cute,
he said to himself when he first saw her in the cafeteria,
unloading her lunch of two sandwiches,
potato chips, a piece of cake wrapped in waxed paper,
and boxed juice from a brown paper bag. "Man, can she grub!"

On the way home from school he walked
through the alleys of his town, Fresno, kicking cans. He was lost in a dream,
trying to figure out a way to make Estela notice him.
He thought of tripping in front of her while she was leaving her math class,
but he had already tried that with a girl in sixth grade.
All he did was rip his pants and bruise his knee,
which kept him from playing in the championship soccer game.
And that girl had just stepped over him as he lay on the ground,
the shame of rejection reddening his face.

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